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# Republican Policy Committee

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Don Nickles, Chairman    Doug Badger, Staff Director    347 Russell Senate Office Building    (202)224-2946    <http://www.senate.gov/~rpc/>  
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## **Democrats Blocked Quick Passage of 'Megan's Law'...**

### **While President Calls for Breaking the Logjam, His Party in the Senate Blocked Consideration of Critical Legislation to Protect Innocent Children**

In July of 1994, a young girl named Megan Kanka was lured into the home of her neighbor. Unknown to Megan, her family, or any of her other neighbors, the man whose home she innocently entered was a twice-convicted child molester, released early from a 10-year sentence. He brutally raped, strangled, and then murdered Megan.

Neighbors were shocked to find out that the perpetrator of this crime was residing in their own back yards. None of the parents in the community knew until after Megan's tragic death that the home in which the crime took place was shared by three convicted sexual predators. Megan's parents decided to mount an all-out effort to see that no other family would have to endure what they endured. They wanted a law that required authorities to inform and notify parents of predators on the loose.

Today legislation known as "Megan's Law," H.R. 2137, is pending on the Senate Calendar. This bill — two days ago passed by the House of Representatives by a 418-0 vote — would require that state and local law enforcement agencies release relevant information in all cases they deem necessary to protect the public involving sexually violent offenders.

Yesterday, Majority Leader Dole, knowing the public's sense of urgency about this matter, asked that the Senate promptly take up the Megan's Law bill. Unfortunately, the minority party had other plans. Minority Leader Daschle objected to the bill's consideration. This exchange came after three attempts made by the Majority Leader to accommodate the Democrats' concerns, and after an impassioned plea by the President to "break the logjam." What could be their rationale for blocking this bill?

Writing in support of the legislation, Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said: *"Unfortunately, too often it takes a tragedy to awaken the nation to a problem. Megan's tragic and untimely death helped millions of Americans understand..."*

Americans understand. . . Majority Leader Dole and his party understand. . . Why don't the Democrats understand?

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Staff Contact: Kenneth C. Foss, 224-2946